



Washington
Secretary of State
SAM REED

DISH *from the* DOLLIVER

January 2010

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE CORPORATIONS & CHARITIES DIVISION

this ISSUE

- New changes, and how they impact your organization
- Fees changes: Find out who they impact
- Free training coming to a city near you

more INSIDE

Helpful Hints	2
The Buzz	2
News Tidbits	3
Happenings	3
New Rules	4

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New year means new changes for Limited Partnerships



Changes impact Limited Partnerships, new Limited Liability Limited Partnerships

Last session, state lawmakers passed a measure that calls for several changes for Limited Partnerships (LPs), including:

- LPs are now required to file an annual report. LPs formed prior to January 1, 2010 will still file periodic reports. Beginning July 1, 2010, all LPs must file an annual report. The Office of the Secretary of State will send notifications to each LP approximately 45 days prior to its renewal date.
- LPs can now elect to become a Limited Liability Limited Partnership (LLLLP). This can be done at time of formation or, for LPs already in existence, through an amendment.
- LPs formed as of January 1, 2010, now have five years to reinstate following an administrative dissolution. LPs formed prior to January 1, 2010, still have a two – year reinstatement period until July 1, 2010. At that time all LPs will have five years to reinstate.
- New LPs can change their registered office or agent by filing a statement of change form. LPs formed prior to January 1, 2010, must still file an amendment to change their registered office or agent, until July 1, 2010, at which time they can update this information through a statement of change form.

the BUZZ

Our online store is now open

The Corporation & Charities Division's online store launched on December 7, 2009. This online feature is very important because it allows our customers better and quicker access to documents. The online store allows the public to order Certificates of Existence and Incorporation, as well as plain and certified copies of original registration documents and most annual reports.

By offering an efficient and dependable ordering system, the Corporations Division has been receiving an influx of online requests for documents; 684 requests were received in January alone. The online store is a great addition to our online self-service options and is upholding our agency's mission of "Providing essential business and charitable information to promote public trust."

Try it out by going to our website www.sos.wa.gov and clicking on "Corporations Division" then "New Online Ordering Services."



HELPFUL HINTS

Some tips for filing paperwork with our office — no matter what type of organization you have

Corporate Sole Renewals:

Beginning January 1, 2010, Corporate Soles are required to renew annually with the Secretary of State's Office. Notices were mailed to all registered Corporate Soles in the fall of 2009 to make them aware of this legislative change. The first set of renewals were mailed in January.

Nonprofit Renewals Online:

Nonprofit renewals are now online. After many months of development and testing, our online nonprofit renewal system went live in December 2009. Now nonprofits receive a postcard renewal notice advising them to renew through our online system. If the nonprofit still chooses to renew via a paper form, they have the option to do so. We've received many positive comments from our customers on the system, and suggestions for more improvements that we hope to make in later versions. Check out all of our online renewals at www.sos.wa.gov/corps.

Limited Liability Company (LLC) Renewal Update:

The Department of Licensing recently made an improvement to the LLC online renewal to clarify the difference between "member" and "manager". We hope this language will make it easier for customers to make the correct choice in response to the question of who manages the company. The new language is shown below:

Manager of the company: *My company is managed by:* _____

Members: *You will provide the names of owners on the next screen.*

Members are the owners of the company. Members can be individuals or other entities. Select this option if the company's members have not appointed a manager with authority to act as an agent of the company.

Managers: *You will provide the names of managers on the next screen. A manager can be a person or an entity. The members give the managers the authority to act on behalf of the company. If the LLC has designated any managers, select this option.*

Correct information on your documents?

Did you know that the Secretary of State's office has limited responsibility to ensure statutory information is provided, but the accuracy is the responsibility of the filer? The person signing the paper (or submitting the online application) is responsible for the information being filed, and this information will be available to the public **as submitted**. Inaccurate information can delay important notices to the company, and changes to correct this information can be costly and time-consuming so please remember to check your paperwork before submittal.

Limited Partnership Fee changes effective Feb. 28, 2010:

- Name reservation or transfer of name will be \$30 (currently \$10)
- Certified copies of any document will be \$20 (currently \$5 plus \$.20 for each additional page)
- Certificates of existence will now be \$20 (currently \$10)
- Copy of Certificate of LP will be \$10 (currently \$5)
- Copy fee for a single document will be \$10 (currently \$1 plus \$.20 per additional page)

HAPPENINGS



Charities Program

Program registrations keep rising

The total number of registrations, which include charities, paid solicitors, and charitable trusts rose from **11,521** in **2008** to **12,919** in **2009**— a 12% increase!

The new financial reporting requirements for charitable organizations became effective January 1, 2010. Organizations filing a registration or renewal on or after January 1, 2010 may also be required to provide additional financial information, depending on the gross revenue averaged over the last three fiscal years. More information is available on the Charities website at:

<http://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/FinancialReportingRequirementsforCharitableOrganizations.aspx>

Join us for free Nonprofit and Charities Training

The Charities Program and Corporations Division is teaming up with Department of Revenue to provide you with the most complete and up to date information as possible.

The first session was held in Olympia on December 17, 2009

The second session was held January 28, 2010 in Bellevue to a huge audience of over 100 people.

Future sessions include:

- **February 23, 2010**—Mt. Vernon Skagit County Commissioner's Office
6:00 pm—8:00 pm
- **March 25, 2010**—Spokane Spokane County Commissioner's Hearing Room
6:00 pm—8:00 pm

Topics include how to form a non-profit and keep it current; when to file with the Charities Program; what's new with registration and reporting requirements with Charities as well as reseller permits with the State Department of Revenue.

Registration is required and can be completed at:

NPchoSeminars@sos.wa.gov

TIDBITS

Nonprofits in Washington

Nonprofits in Washington draws on both published and unpublished data from public records to sketch, in general terms, the numbers of recorded nonprofit organizations in the state, their size and financial characteristics, where they are located, and services they provide.

Information can be found online at the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs at <http://evans.washington.edu/>

Need assistance?

Be sure to make note of our new website address



Our domain name has changed from www.secstate.wa.gov to www.sos.wa.gov.

The Charities information line is (360) 725-0378 or via e-mail at charities@sos.wa.gov

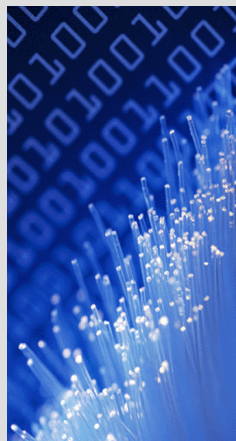
The Corporations information line is (360) 725-0377 or you can send an inquiry, suggestion or comment to our general e-mail: corps@sos.wa.gov

fact of the QUARTER

Domestic partnerships filed in 2009

In 2009, **1875** Domestic Partnerships were filed with the Washington Secretary of State's Office:

JANUARY— 81	JULY—117
FEBRUARY—126	AUGUST— 150
MARCH— 112	SEPTEMBER—177
APRIL—115	OCTOBER—191
MAY—143	NOVEMBER—260
JUNE—159	DECEMBER—244





New Corporations rules adopted

Limited Partnership, implementing RCW 25.10 — Effective February 28, 2010. Rules set fees, outline procedures and set forth guidelines for implementation of the uniform limited partnership act of 2009, including establishing a new entity, the limited liability limited partnership.

Electronic Authentication, licensing of Certification Authorities — Effective March 1, 2010. Reduce the fiscal impact on certification authorities registered in Washington State in an attempt to attract more business in the area of digital signature technology.

At this time, the state has only two certi-

fication authorities licensed to offer digital signature technology. The requirement to register each year is expensive and time consuming. The law allows for a biennial registration and this change implements the biennial renewal process.

Trademark Registration — Effective February 28, 2010. Updating state classification codes to match federal classification codes.

International Student Exchange Program — Effective February 27, 2010. Updating references and creating consistency between state and federal standards.

VISIT US ONLINE FOR MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.SOS.WA.GOV



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